

“Green technology, like solar farming or energy efficient construction, is an up-and-coming industry in our Valley. Investments made to train people in this industry will help create new jobs and help our local economy,” Costa said. “I’m thrilled to see these funds allocated to West Hills Community College, where Valley residents can learn new skills or advance careers,”

“These ‘Pathways Out of Poverty’ grants will help workers in disadvantaged communities gain access to the good, safe and prosperous jobs of the 21st Century green economy,” said Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis. “Green jobs present tremendous opportunities for people who have the core skills and competencies needed in such well-paying and rapidly growing industries as energy efficiency and renewable energy.”

The Department of Labor’s Pathways Out of Poverty grants will integrate training and supportive services into cohesive programs that will help targeted populations find pathways out of poverty and into economic self-sufficiency through employment in energy efficiency and renewable energy industries. Despite the economic downturn, these green industries present many potential opportunities for individuals to learn new skills and competencies, gain employment and advance along career pathways.